

UGA TILL

RECEIPT #

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

ER 86-3693

16 August 1986

Lt. Gen. Daniel O. Graham, USA (Ret.)  
Director, High Frontier  
1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Lt. Gen. Graham:

I appreciate your letters of 23 and 29 July 1986 regarding possible Soviet sabotage of our space programs. I am very concerned about the possibility of Soviet sabotage; however, based on the information developed in investigations of all aspects of the accidents, we do not believe the U.S. space launch failures you cited were due to Soviet action. In the case of each launch, the specific technical failures that caused the accident have been identified. These technical factors have, in turn, been traced to errors or procedural problems that, while serious in themselves, cannot be tied together in a pattern suggestive of sabotage. The possibility of Soviet sabotage was thoroughly investigated. Experimental work was even conducted to evaluate the possibility that snipers could have inflicted damage on the vehicles. These tests were negative, and none of the investigations found any evidence of Soviet involvement.

I would like to comment on some of the other circumstantial evidence you mentioned in regard to the space launch failures. Soviet surveillance ships have previously been absent during both successful and unsuccessful space launches. The system differences between the Challenger and the Delta which failed at Canaveral, coupled with the differences in failure modes, suggest that the similarity in detonation times was a true coincidence. Finally, and contrary to press reports, the Air Force officer who disappeared in 1983 was never involved with rockets, satellites, launch control, missile destruction systems, or any similar duties. We have no evidence linking him to the U.S. space failures. He remains charged with desertion.

I thank you for your interest in this important issue and hope you find the above information useful.

Yours,

  
William J. Casey  
DCI  
EXEC  
REG

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